

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original): A hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode obtained by adhering an electrode material consisting of hydrogen absorbing alloy powder and a binding agent composed of a polymeric material to a current collector, wherein

an aqueous polymeric material except fluorocarbon resin is applied thereon, to form a coating layer, and a polymeric material in said coating layer is different from the polymeric material in the binding agent.

2. (Currently amended): The hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode according to claim 1, wherein

the polymeric material in said coating layer is a copolymer comprising at least two ~~types of~~ elements selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid ester, methacrylic acid ester, aromatic olefin, conjugated diene and olefin.

3. (Currently amended): The hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode according to claim 1, wherein

the polymeric material in said coating layer is at least one ~~type of elements~~ element selected from the group consisting of styrene-methacrylic acid ester-acrylic acid ester copolymer, ethylene-acrylic acid ester copolymer, methacrylic acid methyl-butadiene copolymer, styrene-butadiene copolymer and butadiene polymer.

4. (Original): The hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode according to claim 1, wherein the weight of said coating layer is in the range of 0.1 to 5 % by weight of the total weight of said coating layer, hydrogen absorbing alloy power and the binding agent.

5. (Original): The hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode according to claim 1, wherein the weight of said coating layer is in the range of 0.2 to 2 % by weight of the total weight of said coating layer, hydrogen absorbing alloy power and the binding agent.

6. (Canceled):

7. (Canceled):

8. (Canceled):

9. (Original): An alkaline storage battery, wherein the hydrogen absorbing alloy electrode according to claim 1 is employed as its negative electrode.